(b) if so, the details of such statues which are still exhibiting at important places in the country;

(c) whether there is a proposal under active consideration of Government to remove the statues of late Queen Victoria from the Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata on the pattern of removal of late King Edward VII from Delhi; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The subject matter relating to statues of foreigners and others comes under the jurisdiction of the respective State Governments and their Municipal and other local bodies etc.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal under consideration to remove the statue of late Queen Victoria from Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata, as the statue constitutes an integral part of the history.

Setting up of National Heritage Sites Commission

1530. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to set up of a National Heritage Sites Commission modelled after the UNESCO;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it will come into force?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The Government proposes to set up a statutory Heritage Sites Commission. The functions of the Heritage Sites Commission would include advising the Government on short and long term policies in respect of heritage conservation, preparing guidelines for conservation and management of heritage sites, suggesting necessary amendments to heritage legislations, commissioning studies, investigation, etc. leading to the identification, determination and categorization of heritage sites and providing advice to Government on any matter pertaining to heritage.

(c) The Commission would be set up after the enactment of an appropriate legislation.